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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ALMATY 000411

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: EUCOM DEPUTY COMMANDER GENERAL WALD,S MEETING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER TOKAYEV, JANUARY 20, 2006

Classified By: DCM MARK L. ASQUINO, REASONS: 1.4 (A) (B) AND (D)

[1](#). (U) Participants:

U.S.

European Command Deputy Commander Charles F. Wald
Charge Mark Asquino
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense James MacDougall
Rear Admiral Michael J. Lyden, J4 Director of Logistics and
Security Assistance, EUCOM
Brigadier General Melvyn Spiese, J5/J8, Deputy Director for
Plans, Strategies, and Assessments, EUCOM
Astana Principal Officer Lynne Tracy (notetaker)
Lieutenant Colonel Michael E. Corson, Deputy Executive
Officer to General Wald

Kazakhstan

Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev
MFA Chief of Staff Yerzhan Ashykbayev
MFA Americas Division Office Director Serzhan Abdykarimov
MFA Americas Desk Officer Aidar Shakenov
MFA Press Spokesman Ilyas Omarov

[1](#)2. (C) Summary. During a January 19-20 visit to Astana,
EUCOM Deputy Commander General Charles Wald met with Foreign
Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev to discuss regional security
issues. The FM expressed appreciation for the role of NATO
in Afghanistan and indicated plans to participate in the
London Afghanistan Donors, Conference, January 31-February
[1](#)1. Responding to the General,s call for greater Caspian Sea
security cooperation, Tokayev cautioned that the views of
neighbors had to be taken into account, but also saw room for
engagement along the lines described by the delegation. The
FM reiterated Kazakhstan,s commitment to developing multiple
outlets for its oil and gas supplies. Finally, Tokayev
conveyed Astana,s concerns about Iran,s anti-Israeli
statements and nuclear ambitions. End Summary.

NATO) A High Priority

[1](#)3. (C) In response to General Wald's remarks on regional
security, FM Tokayev emphasized the high priority that
Kazakhstan placed on cooperation with NATO. Astana did not
see Kazakhstan,s IPAP (Individual Partnership Action Plan)
as contradicting other treaty commitments, and had cautioned
Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov that Kazakhstan values NATO.
Kazakhstan, Tokayev continued, was grateful for NATO,s
engagement in Afghanistan and wanted to play its part by
assisting in Afghanistan,s reconstruction. Tokayev said
that he intends to participate in the January 31-February 1
Afghanistan Donors Conference in London. (Note: The FM
offered no specific areas of intended
assistance/contribution. End Note.)

Guarding the Caspian

[1](#)4. (C) General Wald underscored the strategic importance of
Central Asia and the need for enhanced security cooperation,
particularly on the Caspian Sea, to interdict nuclear
materials smuggling, the movement of terrorists, and human
trafficking. Azerbaijan, he noted, has installed
surveillance equipment on its Caspian coastline. The United
States hoped to see a
&maturing8 of its Caspian Guard initiative that is designed
to promote greater capacity and cooperation on border
security, particularly between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

[1](#)5. (C) Tokayev responded that Caspian Sea cooperation is
&complicated.8 While bilateral partnerships are a fairly
straightforward matter, the dispute with Iran on the
appropriate principle for allocating rights to the seabed
hampers any multi-lateral cooperation. The FM acknowledged
concern about the security threats outlined by the General.
Kazakhstan, though, would have difficulty accepting U.S.
proposals that included U.S. military personnel on its soil
similar to U.S. &installations8 in Azerbaijan. He
emphasized that Kazakhstan must proceed carefully and take
into account the views of its neighbors, especially Russia,

on such matters.

16. (C) DASD MacDougall clarified that the United States had not set up its own "installations⁸ in Azerbaijan or was it preparing to permanently station troops there. Rather, the United States was providing equipment and training that would enhance Azerbaijan,s own security capabilities. The U.S. was providing American contract personnel who were in Azerbaijan on temporary basis to provide such assistance.

17. (C) The General underscored that security is not a zero sum game. Russia, he said, has a contribution to make. U.S. interest in facilities in the region, he explained, is focused on access for logistical support such as re-fueling. DASD MacDougall also expressed appreciation for the access that Kazakhstan has granted in support of operations in Afghanistan and expressed U.S. interest in continuing that relationship. Tokayev welcomed these assurances, and indicated that broad, Caspian security cooperation and assistance, including access, could go forward on this basis.

Multiple Pipelines Is the Name of the Game

17. (C) Expanding on the Caspian neighbors theme, Tokayev noted that Kazakhstan is encouraging Turkmenistan to play a more active and cooperative role on military and gas issues. Kazakhstan recognized the need for alternative pipelines and multiple suppliers, and thus Turkmenistan was an important factor in Kazakhstan,s strategy to diversify its outlets. Tokayev said that he had just made the point on developing multiple suppliers to visiting Georgian Speaker Borjanadze.

Iran -- A Source of Concern

18. (C) Returning to the theme of Iran, Tokayev related that he had met with the Iranian delegation during President Nazarbayev,s January 11 inauguration. The FM used that opportunity, he said, to underscore Kazakhstan concerns over President Ahmadinejad,s recent statements on Israel, which had the potential to destabilize the Middle East as well as Eurasia. He noted that while Kazakhstan,s relationship with Iran was not a close one, Astana did have opportunities to raise its concerns with Teheran on such issues. The FM said that the historical schism between Shiites and Sunnis was the source of continuing tensions in the Islamic world. He expressed concern that there would be a strengthening of ties between a Shiite-led government in Iraq and Iran,s radical Shiites.

19. (C) Kazakhstan was also watching Iran,s nuclear ambitions closely. Tokayev estimated that Iranian pride and jealousy over Pakistan,s position as a nuclear power were in part fueling Iran,s nuclear program. The FM expressed satisfaction that Iran,s behavior had been referred to the UN Security Council. Diplomatic measures, including possible sanctions, should be employed, he said. He added that he thought that the Russians and Chinese would abstain rather than vote to block such sanctions. The General encouraged increased information sharing because of Iran,s record of supporting terrorists and passing on nuclear technology.

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